

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1 and 10 recite a plurality of relatively lightweight forms disposed within the core and made of a fire resistant insulating material. In contrast, Kennedy discloses additives to enhance the fire resistance of the core, not of the forms. See paragraph [0087]. Kennedy does not disclose additives to enhance the fire resistance of the forms, or forms made of a fire resistant insulating material.

Thus, because not all the features of claims 1 and 10 are disclosed in Kennedy, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable over Kennedy.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3, 8, 9, and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Almog '082 or Almog '138. The Examiner states that Almog '082 or Almog '138 disclose all the features of claim 3, except the barrier being in tube form, and all the features of claims 8, 9, and 11-13 except the specific properties of the insulating material. The Examiner also states that it would have been obvious to modify Almog '082 or Almog '138 to achieve the claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 3, 8, 9, and 11-12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons presented above for claim 1. Furthermore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify Almog '082 or Almog '138 to achieve the claimed invention. Almog '082 suggests filling the space between the layers (2, 6) with polystyrene foam or glass wool because of their low cost, not because of their fire resistance. See column 2, lines 61-66. There is no disclosure or suggestion in either Almog '082 or Almog '138 that the fire resistance qualities of glass wool are even relevant. Moreover, the panels described by Almog '082 or Almog '138 would have negligible fire resistance since the rigid foams

employed would quickly melt or decompose under a significant heat load. Thus, the fire resistance of the filler material is irrelevant. One skilled in the art thus would not be motivated to modify Almog '082 or Almog '138 to achieve a particular density, ignition point, or melting point of the insulating material.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claims 3, 8, 9, and 11-12 are patentable over Almog '082 or Almog '138.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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